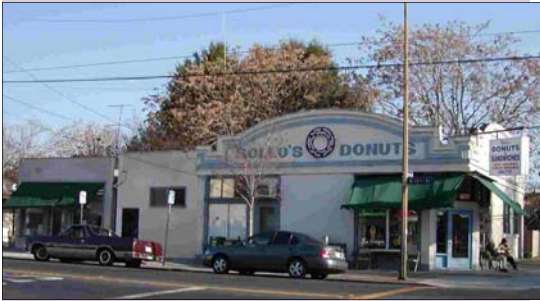


Neighborhood Matters

E-Letter Number One 19 March 2004

Telling the Story of the Strong Neighborhoods of San Jose, California



"Between the optimist and the pessimist, the difference is droll. The optimist sees the doughnut; the pessimist the hole!" - Oscar Wilde

Last Saturday found me at **Rollo's Donuts** (photo top left) in the 13th Street neighborhood picking up an assortment of fried heaven for a community meeting. The regulars were elbow-to-elbow at every table. The corner shop reverberated with the kind of excited buzz that only the well caffeinated and highly sugared can produce that early in the morning. With the addition of a new breakfast menu, Rollo's is the place to be in the morning. (All that are lacking is some German-style fried potatoes to put it over the top)



Recently **Gary Sunseri**, (photo middle left) the property owner, architects from **studio s squared**, and the Redevelopment Agency collaborated to produce a concept for the façade (drawing bottom left) of the building. The design will preserve the historic elements and character of the building and freshen everything from the awnings to the tile wainscoting. When these improvements are complete, and the new streetscape out front finished, the building will be a polished jewel in the neighborhood crown.

The façade improvement and streetscape are exiting, but I left Rollo's with three things in mind:



1. There really is nothing better than fried dough in the morning,
2. The neighborhood itself needs to see visible change. Contracts and designs mean a lot to staff, but action means even more to neighborhoods, and
3. Like a good jelly filled doughnut, it is what goes on inside that makes the difference in the end, and by that measure Rollo's already is a treasure.

Neighborhood Links

[Preserving Japantown](#)

[Target gets Nod \(Story and King\)](#)

[Kaboom! Playgrounds for Neighborhoods](#)

[City Heights - Neighborhood Redevelopment in San Diego](#)

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Neighborhood Project Highlights

- **East Valley/680 Communities:** Sidewalk replacement and curb ramp installation along routes to schools begun.
- **Edenvale/Great Oaks:** Two neighborhood centers breaking ground in March.
- **University:** O'Donnell's Gardens Park at 6th and Williams beginning construction begins in June.

Visit the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative at www.strongneighborhoods.org